

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner: M.E. Hoban; Art Unit: 1793; Docket No.: 3863

In RE: Application of M. Cotlear De Witzmann, et al

Ser. No.: 10/593,982

Filing Date: September 25, 2006

December 1, 2008

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT WITH REQUEST
FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION**

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks,
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the final Office Action dated July 29, 2008, please continue examination under 37 C.F.R. 1.114 by making the following changes and considering the following remarks in the above-identified U.S. Patent Application: